

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

DANIEL BRYAN KELLY,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) 2:05-CV-1150-MHT
RICKY OWENS, et al.,)
Defendants.)

INITIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

PLEASE READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. These deadlines and responsibilities may not be changed without leave of the court. All parties are expected to comply with each and every provision of this order in a timely manner, and extensions will be granted in only extraordinary unforeseeable circumstances. The parties are also expected to comply with the Middle District's Local Rules and the Middle District's Guidelines to Civil Discovery Practice, both of which can be found at <http://www.almd.uscourts.gov/>.

In this civil action referred to the Magistrate Judge for recommendation on pretrial motions, counsel for the parties have submitted their *Report of Parties' Planning Meeting* pursuant to the Order entered on December 5, 2006 (Doc. 81). Under Rule 16, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended, the Court is required to set a schedule for the discovery and the filing of motions. Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. Pretrial Conference and Trial

The parties have requested a pretrial conference in September, 2007 and the setting of this action for jury trial on the October 1, 2007, trial term. In due course after the deadline for dispositive motions and/or consideration by the assigned trial judge of Recommendations on any dispositive motions, this case shall be scheduled, as may be necessary, for trial and pretrial conference. The assigned trial judge shall issue a supplemental Rule 16 Order setting appropriate deadlines for the disclosure of trial witnesses; the identification and submission of trial exhibits; the

filing of requested voir dire questions, motions in limine, and proposed jury questions.

2. Pre-Discovery Disclosures

The parties will exchange by January 8, 2007, the information required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1).

3. Amendment of Pleadings

The parties must join additional parties or amend the pleadings by February 27, 2007.

4. Completion of Discovery

All discovery shall be completed **on or before August 24, 2007**, except that, as to any witnesses whose names are not revealed with until the last day allowed or whose names are not revealed with sufficient time for the other parties to take a deposition prior to the pretrial conference, the opposing party shall have the time extended in this paragraph to allow for deposing such witness.

5. Discovery Plan

Except to the extent of any conflict with deadlines set out above, the Discovery Plan contained in the *Report of Parties' Planning Meeting* (Doc. 82, filed December 18, 2006), is adopted and incorporated herein.

6. Dispositive Motions

Any dispositive motions, i.e., motions to dismiss or motions for summary judgment, shall be filed no later than **July 27, 2007**. A brief and all supporting evidence shall be filed with any such motion. In all briefs filed by any party relating to the motion, the discussion of the evidence in the brief must be accompanied by a specific reference, by page and line, to where the evidence can be found in a supporting deposition or document. Failure to make such specific reference will result in the evidence not being considered by the court.

7. Motions, Briefs, Proposed Orders

(A) The failure to file a response to any motion -- either dispositive or non-dispositive -- within the time allowed by the court shall indicate that there is no opposition to the motion.

(B) All briefs on any matter before the court must be formal in format and filed with the court. The court does not accept "letter briefs" or "letter reports."

(C) A request or motion for extension of a deadline in any court order (i) must be in writing; (ii) must indicate that movant has, in a timely manner, previously contacted counsel for

all other parties; and (iii), based on that contact, must state whether counsel for all other parties agree to or oppose the extension request or motion. A request or motion that fails to meet this requirement will be denied outright, unless the movant offers a credible explanation in the request or motion why this requirement has not been met. Absent stated unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of the movant, oral extension requests and motions are not allowed, and "eleventh hour" extension requests and motions will be denied outright.

(D) Any proposed order that a party desires the court to enter should be submitted to the court in both (a) an Adobe Acrobat PDF format attachment to the motion and (b) by transmitting an electronic copy of the proposed pretrial order to the court as an attachment to an email message sent to the "proposed order" box for the designated magistrate judge. For these purposes, the electronic copy should be in WordPerfect or Word format and not in Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

8. Mediation

On or before **August 17, 2007**, counsel for all parties shall conduct a face-to-face settlement conference at which counsel shall engage in good faith settlement negotiations. If settlement cannot be reached, counsel shall also discuss whether mediation will assist the parties in reaching settlement. Not less than **FIVE (5) DAYS** after this conference, counsel for the plaintiff shall file a pleading titled "Notice Concerning Settlement Conference and Mediation". This pleading shall indicate whether settlement was reached and, if not, whether the parties believe mediation will assist them in resolving this case short of trial. ***Information about mediation is attached to this order.***

9. Reports from Retained Experts

The parties shall disclose to each other the identity of ANY person who may be used at trial to present evidence under Rules 701, 702, 703, or 705, and provide the reports of retained experts or witnesses whose duties as an employee of the party regularly involve giving expert testimony, required by Rule 26(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The parties shall comply fully with all requirements of Rule 26(a)(2) in regard to disclosure of expert testimony.

From Plaintiff(s): April 27, 2007
From Defendant(s): May 25, 2007

10. If any party has an objection to these deadlines, the party should inform the Court within **14** days from the date of this Order; otherwise, the Court will assume that the deadlines are agreeable to all parties. Unless this Order be modified by subsequent Order of the Court, the foregoing provisions are binding on the parties.

DONE this 19th day of December, 2006.

/s/ Delores R. Boyd
DELORES R. BOYD
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

PROGRAM OF VOLUNTARY MEDIATION

This court has established a program of voluntary mediation to assist litigants in resolving their disputes prior to trial. The court stresses that mediation is completely voluntary and confidential. The court strictly enforces the confidentiality of mediation.

The court encourages litigants to consider the salutary benefits of resolving at an early stage their dispute through voluntary mediation. Mediation is a process of confidential negotiation through which parties may often achieve results which could not be gained through submission of their case to a jury. Successful mediation saves the substantial time and expense involved with a trial. Successful mediation allows parties to alleviate the risk of trial and, at the same time, permits the parties to play an active role in the final decision about their case. The mediation process generally involves a joint meeting with all parties and counsel to discuss the case and each side's position. After this meeting the mediator will meet with each side individually for a full discussion of that side's case. Throughout the process the goal of the mediator is to assist the parties in negotiating a settlement. Often the mediator will provide to the parties a frank, honest opinion about the strengths and weaknesses of their case. Often an objective viewpoint assists parties in making good decisions about settlement.

The scheduling order entered in this case requires that not less than 21 days after the date for filing dispositive motions, counsel for the parties shall personally meet and attempt to reach settlement of the case. If counsel in good faith cannot reach settlement, counsel are also required to consider whether mediation will assist the parties in resolving this case. Within five days after this conference counsel are to notify the trial judge in writing whether they have settled the case and, if not, whether they believe mediation will assist the parties in resolving the case. Upon such notification, the trial judge may assign a mediator to schedule a mediation conference. However, a judge of this court may assign a mediator at any time.

Except in extraordinary circumstances the mediator will be a judicial officer. Under the existing internal operating understandings of this court, a nonjudicial mediator will not be assigned to a case without the knowledge and concurrence of the parties.

The court also encourages parties to consider settlement negotiations and mediation well before the time when a settlement conference is required. At any time while a case is pending, the parties may seek assistance in settling their dispute through mediation.